

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Remotely via Zoom 6th January 2020 from 7:30pm

Present: Jonathan Histed (in the Chair)
R Blamey, M Cockburn, S Hubble, B Jeffery, N Powell and M Sheward

Also Present: 11 members of the public

District Councillor John Edwards-Winser
County Councillor Roger Gough

Clerk: Sarah Moon

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hibbins and District Councillor Irene Roy.
2. There were no disclosures of interest.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 (copies previously distributed) were agreed and the Clerk was authorised to sign them on behalf of the Chairman.
4. **District/County Councillor Reports**

County Councillor Roger Gough

The issue of visitors driving to Shoreham during lockdown has been taken up with the Enforcement Team at KCC. SDC and the Police also play their part in this and each body is represented on the Kent Resilience Forum in order to ensure they work together. The difficulty surrounding 'outdoor exercise' is that the guidance says people should not travel outside their area but the law does not. Also, there is no official definition of what is a local area although it should be within the same village, the same part of a town or the local environs. County Councillor Roger Gough promised to speak to the Enforcement Cell at KCC to see if they could come down to Shoreham as the number of visitors on busy weekends is such that local people do not feel comfortable about going out.

District Councillor's Report

District Councillor John Edwards-Winser promised to speak to the CSU team at SDC to raise our concerns about the number of visitors with them too.

5. **Chairman's Report**

As per item 11a below and the Clerk's Report, the Chairman reported numerous concerns from local residents regarding the numbers of visitors coming into the village at a critical time during the pandemic.

The main problem is that many visitors are not adhering to government guidance and are visiting in large groups, not wearing masks and sometimes travelling from a distance. The situation is particularly bad outside businesses which are serving takeaways, where visitors congregate on pavements, making passing difficult. There has also been a significant increase in the amount litter being left all around the village.

After a lengthy discussion on these topics, the following motions were proposed:

i) To approach local businesses to discuss the issues of communal responsibility in regard to the COVID situation;

It was RESOLVED that businesses should be spoken to in order to ensure that their clientele abide by the current regulations and that the businesses themselves be asked to take responsibility for this.

ii) To adopt a policy to produce posters to be put up around the village reminding people of COVID restrictions;

It was RESOLVED to produce posters and to allocate a budget of up to £200 for this purpose.

iii) To allow the Clerk to contract overtime to the lengthsman to enable extra litter collection on busy weekends;

It was RESOLVED that a budget of £300 per month be allocated for this purpose and that the Clerk approach the lengthsman to see if she would be willing to take on the extra work.

It was also RESOLVED that the Clerk speak to SDC about the cost of purchasing and installing a new bin in Station Road as for some time (prior to the pandemic) there has been a problem with litter being dumped in the verges along this stretch of road. A member of the public has been picking it up voluntarily for several years but if there were a bin, perhaps there would not be such a problem.

Another member of the public had also suggested installing recycling bins in the village but due to time constraints, it was RESOLVED to defer this item to the Amenities Meeting on 20th January 2021.

6. Clerk's Report

- The 2021/2022 budget has been drafted.
- The tennis courts have been closed in accordance with latest government guidance. The playground, allotments and toilets may remain open.
- The bench donated by Ralph Abbot for the tennis court has been stolen.
- The lights on Station Road are now working.
- The lights in car park have been vandalised.
- Numerous queries of concern have been raised by residents regarding the increased number visitors being seen in the village, despite advice to 'Stay at Home'.

7. Budget

Due to time constraints, it was RESOLVED to approve the budget at the next meeting (3rd February 2021).

8. Precept

Due to time constraints, it was RESOLVED to agree the precept for 2021/2022 at the next meeting (3rd February 2021).

9. Schedule of Meetings

Due to time constraints, it was RESOLVED to agree the Schedule of Meetings for 2021/2022 at the next meeting (3rd February 2021).

10. **Working Group Updates**

To receive updates from the following working parties

- a) **Traffic and Parking Working Party**
The Traffic and Parking Working Party met with two officers from Kent Highways as well as District Councillor Irene Roy to discuss the details of the proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A225. The meeting was held on site in order that the officers could see the problems first hand. KCC are suggesting a reduction in the speed limit from the Otford Gates to just past Shoreham Station but Shoreham Parish Council are asking for this to be extended to the bridge at Preston Farm. SPC would also like traffic islands to make crossing the road safer. The officers confirmed they would need to check the width of the road to see whether this would be a viable request and promised to report back to the Clerk as soon as they had investigated this.
- b) **Broadband Working Party**
The Working Party confirmed there had been good news regarding the broadband upgrade. Openreach have priced the village at £200,000 but have had pledges of over £600,000. This clearly shows how much this upgrade is wanted. Openreach are currently in the planning stage of the project and people who have signed up should soon receive emails from the DCMS (Department of Culture, Media and Sport).
- c) **CCTV Working Party**
Due to time constraints, it was RESOLVED to provide a progress update at the next meeting (3rd February 2021).

11. **Correspondence/Information**

- a) Correspondence has been received from the Shoreham Society voicing their concerns about the amount of visitors who continue to come to the village under the Tier 4 'Stay at Home' guidance. Not only do villagers feel that their safety is being compromised by the crowds, particularly on the narrow pavements and footpaths around the village, but there is also a problem with increased amount of litter originating from the various local businesses who are now providing take away food and drinks.
- b) Large amounts of correspondence relating to Tier 4 restrictions, COVID-19 guidance and Operation Fennel.

12. **Financial Matters**

Accounts/Payments: Authorisation of payments as per schedule (to follow)
RESOLVED to accept the schedule of payments.

Accounts Receipts : The second instalment of our annual precept (£21,600) has been received;

13. **Dates of next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated)**

- a) Planning (if required) and Amenities & Services Meeting – Wednesday 20th January
- b) Planning (if required) and Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 3rd February
- c) Planning (if required) and Finance Meeting – Wednesday 17th February
- d) Planning (if required) and Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 3rd March

Sarah Moon, Clerk to Shoreham Parish Council

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Appendix A – Schedule of Payments

5 January 2021 (2020-2021)										
Shoreham Parish Council										
PAYMENTS LIST										
Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
193	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Office telephone	O2	S	10.65	2.13	12.78
200	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Subscription	Zoom	S	11.99	2.40	14.39
194	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Broadband	Sarah Moon	X	10.00	0.00	10.00
195	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Office Allowance	Sarah Moon	X	30.00	0.00	30.00
196	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Business Rates	Sevenoaks District Council	X	84.00	0.00	84.00
197	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Water charges	Castle Water	X	34.17	0.00	34.17
198	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Electricity	EDF Energy	X	92.00	0.00	92.00
199	04/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Water charges	Castle Water	X	3.00	0.00	3.00
201	05/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Toilet rolls	KH Packaging	S	19.50	3.90	23.40
202	05/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Refuse sacks	Amazon	S	7.32	1.46	8.78
185	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Street lighting repairs	PSR Lighting and Signs Ltd	S	272.00	54.40	326.40
191	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Empty dog waste bins	Sevenoaks District Council	S	330.20	66.04	396.24
186	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		General Repairs	N McDonnell	X	23.40	0.00	23.40
187	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Lengthsman wages	Mrs A Hollands-Parsons	X	261.60	0.00	261.60
188	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Lengthsman wages	N McDonnell	X	34.88	0.00	34.88
189	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Clerk's salary	Sarah Moon	X	1,061.03	0.00	1,061.03
190	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		PAYE & NI	HM Revenue & Customs	X	63.73	0.00	63.73
192	07/01/2021		NetWest current acco		Hedge Cutting	GF Garden Maintenance	X	50.00	0.00	50.00
Total								2,399.47	130.33	2,529.80